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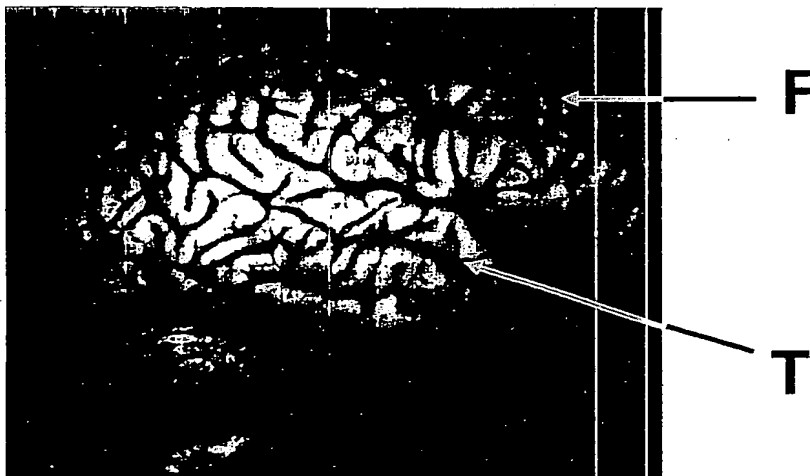
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(54) Title: DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USE OF A RAB FAMILY GTP-BINDING PROTEIN FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

### Identification of Genes Involved in Alzheimer's Disease Pathology



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention discloses the differential expression of a gene coding for a GTP-binding protein from the rab-family in specific brain regions of Alzheimer's disease patients. Based on this finding, this invention provides a method for diagnosing or prognosticating a neurodegenerative disease, in particular Alzheimer's disease, in a subject, or for determining whether a subject is at increased risk of developing such a disease. Furthermore, this invention provides therapeutic and prophylactic methods for treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders using the rab31 gene and its corresponding gene products. A method of screening for modulating agents of neurodegenerative diseases is also disclosed.

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WO 2004/008149 A1